United Nations S/2002/726

Security Council

Distr.: General
5 July 2002

Original: English

Letter dated 3 July 2002 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 28 June 2002, which I received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. Annan

02-45916 (E) 080702

Annex

Letter dated 28 June 2002 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to the Secretary-General

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1088 (1996), I attach the monthly report on the operations of the Stabilization Force (see enclosure). I would appreciate your making this report available to the Security Council.

(*Signed*) George **Robertson**

Enclosure

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Stabilization Force

1. Over the reporting period (1-31 May 2002) there were just over 16,600 troops deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, with contributions from all the NATO allies and from 15 non-NATO countries.

2. The Stabilization Force (SFOR) continues to contribute towards the maintenance of a safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina, monitor compliance by the Entity Armed Forces, conduct inspections and consolidation of weapons storage sites, and provide support to the international organizations working in theatre.

3. The general security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained stable during the reporting period.

4. As previously reported, SFOR decided to intensify its activities under Operation Harvest for the three-month period from April to June. SFOR has collected 806 assorted weapons; 4,739 grenades; 818 mines; and 272,770 rounds of ammunition so far this year.

5. On 10 May, SFOR discovered a significant ammunitions cache in the cellar of a tobacco factory, in the eastern part of Mostar. Ordnance found included 5,020 mortar shells and 1,500 kg of propellant charge.

6. From 13 to 19 May 2002, SFOR launched an operation to deter arms smuggling in the area of Trebinje, and focused on gathering information on routes from the border with Montenegro to the town of Trebinje and on specific individuals and vehicles of interest. As a result of the operation, local police seized some 200 kg of marijuana and one kg of heroin, and detained three individuals.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

7. The armed forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina have been carrying out training activities generally in compliance with the Dayton Peace Agreement.

8. One case of non-compliance was reported on 20 May when inspections revealed that the Bosnian Serb (VRS) Lisina air force radar and radio relay site was monitoring NATO flights and aircraft communications in contravention of the General Framework Agreement for Peace. On 28 May, SFOR followed up the inspection in an operation carried out at the VRS headquarters at Zaluzani, near Banja Luka. Twelve computers were confiscated along with a number of maps and other documents.

9. Subsequently, the Commander of SFOR announced the suspension of the VRS Air Force Commander, Lieutenant Colonel General Milan Torbica, imposed a ban on training and movement of the VRS Air Force, and demanded immediate disclosure of all VRS electronic warfare and electronic intelligence monitoring operations directed against SFOR or NATO forces. The SFOR investigation is continuing.

10. The Federation has continued its efforts to secure funding to provide severance payments to the soldiers it has dismissed as a part of its most recent downsizing programme. Indications suggest that funds will be made available over the coming month.

11. During the period under review, SFOR troops conducted 109 weapons storage site inspections: 56 Bosnian Serb; 27 Bosniac; 17 Bosnian Croat; and 9 Federation.

12. SFOR troops monitored 251 training and movement activities during the reporting period: 137 Bosnian Serb; 68 Bosniac; 18 Bosnian Croat; 27 Federation; and one Federation Army Department.

13. A total of 520 mine-clearing activities were monitored over this period: 237 Bosnian Serb; 184 Bosniac; 74 Bosnian Croat; and 25 Federation.

Cooperation with international organizations

14. Within capabilities and in accordance with its mandate, SFOR continues to provide assistance to the international organizations in theatre, including the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the International Police Task Force, the Office of the High Representative, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

15. SFOR continued to support the Office of the High Representative in monitoring the situation in the Dobrinja area, near Sarajevo airport.

16. SFOR provided assistance to the International Police Task Force in monitoring events around Bocinja Donja during the Orthodox Easter ceremony on 5 May.

17. In the period from 22 to 25 May, SFOR provided transport and security for the initial tour of Bosnia and Herzegovina by the new High Representative, Lord Ashdown.

18. At the request of the Acting Head of the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Tribunal, SFOR provided security assistance during the arrest and extradition to The Hague of Dusko Knezevic.[1] SFOR also provided assistance to the Tribunal during the exhumation activities in the Kotor Varos area on 13 May.

Outlook

19. The security situation is expected to remain stable.

---

[1] The Russian Federation reserves its special position on this matter.